

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4352
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committees (TAC) have been constituted in Solapur and Usmanabad district of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details and composition thereof;
- (c) whether the nominations of TAC members has been done as per the laid down rules;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Telephone Advisory Committees for Solapur and Usmanabad districts of Maharashtra have been constituted up to 31st July, 2002 and 30th April 2002 respectively. There are thirty (30) members in Solapur TAC and thirteen (13) members in Usmanabad TAC. The Solapur TAC is headed by General manager, Solapur Telecom District where as Usmanabad TAC is headed by the Telecom District Manager, Usmanabad Telecom District.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. A Summary of rules on Telephone Advisory Committee is at Annexure.

(e) Does Not arise.

ANNEXURE

SUMMARY OF RULES REGARDING TELEPHONE/TELECOM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

Telephone/Telecom Advisory Committees are constituted by executive orders one for each Telecom Circle/Telephone District/Union Territory.

2. COMPOSITION OF TACs

A TAC is constituted taking into account different types of users of telephone service by giving proper representation of persons representing them. The Categories/Professions represented in the TAC are indicated below:-

1. Members of Parliament [All the MPs (LS/RS) are members in one or the other TAC as per their option/constituency]

2. State Legislature

3. State Administration

4. Corporation/Civic Body

5. Press

6. Medical Profession

7. Legal Profession

8. All other Profession like Engineers/Architect etc.

9. Trade, Commerce & Industry

10. Public workers Others (unspecified category)

No specific qualification has been prescribed for becoming a TAC member. A person considered for nomination in a TAC should belong to at least one of the categories as above.

The normal strength of a TAC in various Circles/Districts is determined as under:

TAC headed by CGMs - 65
TAC headed by PGMs - 55
TAC headed by GMs - 50
TAC headed by TDMS - 40

(The normal strength may be exceeded by 25% and above that under exceptional circumstances)

3. PROCEDURE OF NOMINATION OF MEMBERS

Heads of the Telecom. Circles/Telephone Districts recommend a panel of names representing various categories of interests for the Advisory Committees including the names of Members of Parliament. Recommendations thus received from the Chief General Managers are considered along with other names received directly in the DOT and by the Minister (Communications). A Member of the Committee should normally be residing in the geographical jurisdiction of a Telephone District in the case of District Advisory Committee and the concerned State/Union Territory in the case of State Advisory Committees. However, there is no bar for any member residing outside the SSA/Circle of whose TAC he/she is a member, but he/she cannot discuss any point not pertaining to that particular TAC. So far as TAC telephone is concerned the same can be provided at the desired residence of the member on his request irrespective of the geographical jurisdiction of the TAC.

4. POLICY REGARDING NOMINATION OF MPs

It was decided by the then Hon'ble Minister (C) that all the MPs both from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha would be a member in one or the other TAC. Earlier, the nomination of MPs in TACs was being made by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as per the vacancies intimated by Department of Telecommunications. As per the existing policy, all the CGMs send the list of the names of MPs (LS/RS) pertaining to his Circle for their nomination in the respective TACs. In case of MPs (RS), they are requested by the CGMs to intimate about their adopted constituency so that nomination can be made accordingly. However, in case of any delay, the nomination of Hon'ble MPs (LS/RS) are also sent directly from the TCHQ with the stipulation to modify the nomination of the Hon'ble MP in any other TAC as admissible under the existing rules.

Hon'ble Ministers who are also nominated as TAC members will depute a representative for attending the TAC meeting of the TAC concerned. However, the telephone provided to the Hon'ble Ministers in the capacity of TAC members, can be retained by him unless otherwise specified by him. As per the existing rules, the TAC telephone can be installed at the desired residence of the Hon'ble MP.

5. TENURE AND MEETINGS OF TAC

The tenure of a TAC is normally for two years. Meetings of the TAC are held once in a quarter irrespective of whether new connections are to be released or not. In the Meeting due importance is given to discussions of problems of telephone service, expansion and development programmes, etc. The Heads of Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts circulate well in advance informative notes to the Members to ensure purposeful discussion on these matters.

6. JURISDICTION OF TAC

The State level TACs will not have jurisdiction on stations for which separate TACs are constituted i.e. the Telephone/Telecom Districts.

7. FUNCTION OF TAC

The functions of the Members of the Advisory committees are as under :-

- a) Monitoring the performance of telecommunication services and advising the Department for their improvement;
- b) Bringing the telephone using public and the Department of Telecommunications into closer relationship;
- c) Giving the Public confidence that their grievances are being properly represented as well as attended to;
- d) Giving publicity to the action being taken by the Department for improving and developing the telephone service;
- e) Assisting the Department in handling the shortages in telephone equipment and lines by invoking co-operation and patience from public; and
- f) Assisting the Department in deciding Out-of-Turn connections as provided in the rules in a fair and equitable basis by joint assessment of the comparative merits of various applicants in the waiting list under the 'OYT' and 'Non-OYT Special' categories;

8. FACILITIES TO TAC MEMBERS

A TAC member is provided with a rent free residential service telephone connection for the period of membership provided there are no outstanding dues against Telephones in his/her name. In addition, each TAC member is allowed 1150 free telephone calls bimonthly. Apart from this, non-departmental members are entitled to draw TA/DA in accordance with circular No. 9-1/98-PHP dated 10th July, 2000 for attending each TAC meeting. Hon'ble Member of Parliament are entitled to draw TA/DAs per the rules applicable to them.

9. TERMINATION OF TAC MEMBERS

The membership of a TAC member is liable to be terminated if any member fails to attend three consecutive TAC meeting of the TAC of which he is a member. Further, the membership is also liable to be cancelled on the report of the chairman of the TAC on misbehavior/unsocial, antisocial activities etc. by the TAC member.